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The LABOUR ORGANISER

**Edited by
H. DRINKWATER**

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**Gone With
the Wind—
L.P.
Conference**

Proprietors · The National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents

ESTABLISHED 1920

LABOUR PARTY LIST OF D.L.P. ALTERATIONS

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B15	DMB	Stockport T.C. & L.P.	Mr. W. H. KINSLEY, 117, Wellington Road South, Stockport, Cheshire. Tel.: Stockport 3718.
B22	CD	Macclesfield D.L.P.	Mrs. E. WILKINSON, Waterside, Marple, Cheshire.
B25	CD	Wirral D.L.P.	Mr. T. JONES OWEN, 11, June Avenue, Bromborough, Wirral, Cheshire.
L38	CD	Chesterfield D.L.P.	Coun. W. WESTON, 49, Rutland Road, Chesterfield, Derbys.
A68	CD	Blaydon D.L.P.	Coun. G. C. CALEY, 2, Mill Lane, Winlaton Mill, Blaydon-on-Tyne, Co. Durham.
G77/78	DB	East Ham Central L.P. and T.C.	Mr. B. S. KEENE, J.P., Labour Hall, Katherine Road, East Ham, London, E.6. Tel.: Grangewood 2236.
G80/81	DB	Leyton T.C. & L.P.	Ald. J. FITZGERALD, 12, Salisbury Road, London, E.10. Tel.: Leytonstone 1974.
G127	CD	Isle of Ely D.L.P.	Mr. E. PICKFORD, 23, Bageney Road, March, Cambs.
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It's like this—

The Central Hall, Westminster, was built for business: religious business, and the towering dome is a sort of St. Paul's: for Methodism.

Few delegates, we are afraid, know much about the place, its lesser halls, offices, lifts, conveniences, enterprises, and mighty mission. But that is not for us to-day.

The comparatively small entrance gives no clue to the wide-sweeping and noble stone stairways up which the crowd passes in several flights to the hall above.

Within the hall, the grand proportions strike one at once. Overhead the great dome reaches, providing a reservoir for the hot air. There will be some. But the dome sits lightly, airily, without sense of oppression. We don't realise it is there.

But here is the human filling. From the platform one notes first the great mass of humanity stretching away and ahead to the front of us, to the right of us, to the left of us, all round us, and away behind.

The sight is inspiring. On the floor delegates sit in the pews of the devout. The serried ranks reach right to the distant back where one spots a conspirator or two. The right and the left flanks are covered by delegates: not a vacant seat.

Above and in front the great gallery stretches away almost, it seems, to the sky. Certainly to where one cannot identify a face, or a frock for that matter—for the ladies are good Con-

ference attenders. Whose ladies they are I don't know, for they out-number the delegates: and these you all know are honourable men! They bespeak, of course, a great feminine interest both in politics generally and in Labour.

To the left and to the right again the galleries rise. Packed full. The same humanity. I almost said the same frocks. It is a gay sight. The sun shines through and lights it up and I smile as a short-sighted old gent twice in succession tries to sit on a lady's knee, not knowing the seats are occupied.

Ha, here are the seats of the mighty—a long stretched line of N.E.C. members on the front row of the platform. I like not their back view and the twenty-four pairs of ears seen from behind. The delegates have the best of it (though humbly I submit there are one or two exceptions). As men the N.E.C. are generally jolly good fellows, though the delegates, of course, know all their political sins. The ladies of the N.E.C. are not, of course, "jolly good fellows," but I won't describe them because I so often hide from their acquaintance!

Behind the E.C. on the platform and orchestra sit the nob's and the snob's, like me; for I like my platform seat. The E.C. can't see me, but I can see them, or their ears, and I see, too, the delegates' faces, all of them. I love that eager sight. Some day, sooner rather than late, I may sit on one of those E.C. leather chairs my-

self (one never knows what a year brings forth) and it will be good. For though sometimes an odd Conference wolf may howl, there shines in the full face of a Labour Conference the divinest hope on earth: it is an eager, expectant, compelling look; a mass of it; nay, a March of it. It recalls "the workers marching on."

And that funny little contraption in front of the Chairman? That's the rostrum for the speakers: the dock, where a man is tried, maybe convicted, more often found to be awfully innocent. There a man makes or mars his case, or himself. Most often he mars both—himself and case.

Yes, that dock is an instrument of torture. Beware the mike. It won't shorten sail. And if one be a four-foot-odd-er, one stands on tip-toe and hopes for the best; only to find that the deadly emptiness of the dome sends back no sound, and the delegates supply the deficiency and drown the speaker in protestations that they cannot hear him.

One little delegate altered that by sitting on the rail and reaching the mike that way. He looked like a cock on his perch. As a delegate remarked, there are not a few old cocks on the N.E.C. But they are wise old birds. They have adjustable mikes, and we've just got to hear it when they crow. It's naughty to hint that some of them clutter.

Let us look at the delegates. Gaze fondly round. Here is Coal, there is Metal, yonder Transport, Railways, Groceries, the Engineers, and so on. Note the men of high degree, the industrialists with big votes in their pocket. We can hardly miss them: the Chairman mustn't.

And those of low degree—he of the beetling brow, the wide flowing tie (from nigh the Thames, so the description is apt) and he or they of the high-domed pate and ascetic look; some others rough and unkempt; and the respectable ones all around. The best detectives, it is said, look least like one. So, I suppose, do revolutionaries.

Yes, it takes all sorts to make a Labour Conference. Even the men—women mutton in. But how one misses some old faces. I fancy I caught the ghost or face of Philip somewhere. 'Twas only the one-horse delegate from —

Ay, 'tis a human crowd we see. A

throng, strong, magnetic, powerful, sometimes pitiless in its might.

But what a power, my lads. Oh, that that great organ would burst forth; that great grand songs should rise from this multitude—our songs, our fighting songs, our songs of the things to be.

What is missing in all this is the Song of Socialists marching on to victory. And why? For we who would inspire the world need a little ourselves.

For in Labour's Conference there is dynamite enough to shift all obstacles. If we will it.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF TRADES COUNCILS

The 19th Annual Conference of Trades Councils was held under the auspices of the T.U.C. at Nottingham on May 29th. There were 250 delegates present and this was a larger attendance than at any previous Conference. The gathering was presided over by Mr. John Marchbank, who has been Chairman seven years in succession.

THE LABOUR PARTY

Appointments are to be made
to the following posts:

**District Organisership
for Wales**

and the

**District Organisership
for Scotland**

The first is a permanent position
whilst the second is temporary
only (illness of John Taylor.)

Forms of application and particulars to be obtained from the National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1, on or before July 8th, 1943.

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES

LANCS.: Barrow.—Mr. Walter Mon-slow, Packsaddle Bank, King Lane, Alwoodley, Leeds. A.S.L.E.F.

YORKS.: West Middlesbrough. — Dr. C. E. M. Joad, 4, East Heath Road, N.W.3. D.L.P.

ESSEX.: North-East Ham.—Mr. T. I. Lethaby, 32, Hatherley Gardens, East Ham, E.6. Co-op.

CANDIDATURE WITHDRAWN BY N.E.C.

WARWICKS.: Birmingham, Moseley.—Miss Joyce S. Wells.

INVALIDS

We deeply regret to hear of the continued illness of Mr. John Taylor, the Scottish Secretary, and take this opportunity of sending good cheer and the good wishes of old colleagues.

Our readers will also be sorry to hear that that live wire of Bedford, Coun. W. M. Kempster, J.P., is again on the sick list. Apparently there has not been a complete recovery from a previous illness. Mr. Kempster is Secretary of the Bedfordshire Federation of Labour Parties, one of the most active spirits in his area, and a tireless correspondent to the newspapers on Labour's behalf.

USEFUL BULLETIN ISSUES

The June issue of the Labour Party Bulletin contains a complete guide to Old Age and Widows' Pensions. A summary of the Pensions and Determination of Needs Bill recently introduced in Parliament, the Town Planning (Interim Development) Bill, the Catering Wages Bill, and the Control of Employment (Directed Persons) Order, 1943, are also included in the Bulletin.

The Bulletin Guide to War Pensions, Allowances and Grants [companionable to the above] is a concise summary of the regulations covering the payment of War Pensions, Civilian War Injuries Allowances, and War Service Grants, etc., and has already received mention in these columns.

THIS ISSUE

Our readers will appreciate that the late date of the Party Conference has delayed the present issue.

Our next issue will follow shortly.

GEORGE MORRIS

The tragic death of George Morris, killed while performing fire-watching duties outside the Party offices at Cardiff, came as a terrific shock to many of our readers.

There were few men who held a place so near and dear to the hearts of so many in our Movement as did this dead comrade. Fearless and faithful, he had a high sense of duty and was not to be deterred from his path by any other consideration. His loss to our Movement, and to Wales in particular, is immense. He was one of the Editor's closest and best friends for many years. His distinguished service compelled admiration and his charming personality made him irresistible even to opponents.

A largely attended Memorial Service was held on June 5th in the Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff, and there representatives of all Wales and the National Movement, and of many other interests, met to do George a last honour.

George Morris made a name that will live on.

We have been asked to print the following tribute to George Morris by Councillor Richard Montford, J.P., C.C., President of the National Union of Labour Organisers:—

In the passing of Mr. George Morris we mourn the loss of a dear comrade. The whole Labour Movement, and our Agents' Union in particular, has suffered a loss of an exceptionally heavy character by his sudden death, while protecting the property of the Party he served so faithfully and so well.

We shall no longer enjoy the pleasant smile with which he always greeted his colleagues. He was of a lovable disposition, beneficently and kindly disposed to all his colleagues. His devotion to the Movement he served, and his ability to deal with its intricate problems, made for him a reputation of the highest standing, and he stood in the very front rank of organisers in the service of the Party. He will be greatly missed in Union quarters, and especially by those who had the honour of his personal and intimate acquaintance.

RICHARD MONTFORD, J.P.

How the Conference Voted

Electoral Truce

For termination, 374,000. Against, 2,243,000.

Elsewhere in this issue we give our views on this issue. Briefly put, though we are profoundly dissatisfied with the present situation, we ourselves would have been unable to support the resolution, as put, which would have destroyed the electoral truce and put nothing in its place. We think that those responsible for motions which appeared on the Preliminary Agenda have yet to learn that the Conference Arrangements Committee is no place for innocents. The minority may, however, find some comfort in the thought that the Truce may some time be threatened from other quarters. Certainly their efforts are misdirected in calling for an end to the Truce without first providing that elections can be held on a really democratic basis. And this thing is possible. The movers have a good deal of sympathy from us, but they are barking up the wrong tree.

We note that according to the "Daily Herald," two Trade Unions were included in the minority, and if that is so the Local Party vote for the motion was only 131,000. In view of all the facts argued elsewhere, we are not surprised.

Beveridge

For the Amendment, 955,000. Against the Amendment, 1,715,000.

The amendment was:

Delete all after the first paragraph (of N.E.C. Report) and insert:—

"It congratulates the Parliamentary Labour Party in recording by vote its profound distrust with the Government's statement made by responsible Ministers during the recent debate on the Beveridge Report, feeling strongly that the timidity, delay and evasion shown by the Government clearly indicated that they refused to be committed to the Beveridge principles.

"The Conference calls upon the Parliamentary Party to continue its efforts to secure immediate legislation to implement the principles of the Report."

This was one of the most significant votes at the Conference. The Execu-

tive always command a substantial loyalty vote, and bearing this in mind, the tremendous vote for the amendment shows the red light. In the long run the dissatisfaction which the vote expresses will strengthen the hands of the Parliamentary Party. Its defeat by no means implies that the Conference was satisfied with the course of events.

Communist Affiliation

For affiliation, 712,000. Against affiliation, 1,950,000.

It will be noted that the largest vote of the Conference is here cast against affiliation. The minority included 400,000 votes of the Miners' Federation, besides that of other Trade Unions. Nevertheless, it is true that a minority of Local Parties voted for affiliation, and in doing so they were, in our opinion, voting for increased trouble for themselves and their own eclipse: for Communist affiliation would bring more trouble to Local Labour Parties than to anybody else. We have expressed our views on this matter quite fully in previous issues, and Local Parties should be grateful for the Conference decision, and incidentally for the fact that there is a three years' rule which can operate in such matter as this. It is too much to ask that this debate should be an annual affair.

Local Government

Against the Executive Report, 966,000. For the Executive Report, 1,542,000.

It will be noted that the minority against the Executive Report on Local Government is the largest recorded by the Conference and the Report only secured adoption by a 3 to 2 vote. In our opinion the opponents of the Report had the best of the argument. They included responsible administrators from several centres and others who know what they are talking about. The value of the majority vote on such an issue was also reduced by the sheer fact that the rank and file Trade Union vote recorded in block figures, can by no means be said to have expert knowledge concerning the issues at stake.

We adhere to our opinion that in seeking to force this Report on the

Movement without further advice and consultation is a tactical error. The N.E.C. may be quite certain that this plan is all for the best, but a large section of the Movement in the country is emphatic that it is not; and they after all are the people who will administer the machinery.

Post-War Treatment of Enemy Peoples

For the Amendment, 720,000.
Against the Amendment, 1,802,000.

The Amendment (to a composite resolution on the same subject) read:

"This Conference notes the views that have been expressed regarding the liability of the German people as a whole for the atrocities committed under Nazism, and deplores the attempts being made in certain quarters to construe these views as implying a policy of race hatred and extermination of the German people. The Conference recognises that there are Germans who are opposed to the policy of their Government, but believes that these Germans are in a very small minority and that the Nazi Government would not have remained in power or been able to conduct a total war but for the support it received from the overwhelming mass of the German people. The Conference declares that no permanent peace will be possible unless Germany is completely disarmed in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of the Atlantic Charter, and the spirit of aggressive nationalism entirely eradicated. It therefore welcomes any steps that may need to be taken for the re-education of the German people so that they may play their part in the creation of a democratic, peaceful, and secure world."

As Maurice Webb remarked in the "Daily Herald," the amendment had too much about it for some people of what has come to be known as "Vansittartism." Our readers must judge for themselves, although, reading the terms as printed above, it would be untrue to draw the inference that Vansittartism has become the policy of the Labour Party. In the course of a war the feelings of people and of Conference sway to and fro. Hate grows and hate dies away, and we should not be surprised to see in another year a restatement that by no means would bear the implications which some people may draw.

The great vote recorded by the minority indicates that there is a

wealth of opinion in Labour ranks which stands where the Bournemouth Conference stood in 1940. The resolution was before its time; the amendment was to the time, and for the hour. When the peoples are licking their wounds in the months that are to come, compassion will come back again, and the Conference will not repeat its mistake.

NATIONAL UNION OF LABOUR ORGANISERS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 26th Annual Conference of the National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents was held in London on June 13th. There was an exceptionally good attendance of members.

The report of the Executive Committee, which contained reports on a variety of matters, some contentious and some of high import, together with the accounts, were duly considered and passed, as also was the Annual Report of the "Labour Organiser." The latter showed a year of excellent progress, and an interim report on this year's working showed that the paper had a higher circulation than at the commencement of the war and was in a very satisfactory position.

An intimation from the Secretary (Mr. H. Drinkwater) had been conveyed to the Executive some time previously that he desired to relinquish his offices as Secretary and Editor as soon as arrangements could be made for a successor. Mr. Drinkwater agreed to carry on until arrangements therefor were completed, and the Executive embodied an appreciation of past service in their report.

An interesting item in the report was a proposal to extend the facilities of the Union to others not now covered by membership activities. A development along these lines may prove welcome later on to many of our readers.

The election of officers took place and resulted as follows:—

President: Coun. R. Montford, J.P., C.C.

Chairman: Mr. Claude Denscombe.
Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. T. Watson, J.P., C.C.

Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. Herbert Drinkwater.

Auditors: Mr. C. C. Jones and Ald. C. W. Luker.

Conference and the Truce

"This Conference requests that notice be given forthwith to terminate the Electoral Truce."

By 2,243,000 to 374,000 votes the above resolution was rejected by the Labour Party Conference.

And no wonder. Of all the unreal debates and badly-put cases this surely was the worst.

In the first place we cannot conceive what induced the Local Party sponsors of resolutions on this matter to assent to a composite resolution of this character. The motion was composite of nothing; it was a naked challenge without reason stated or cause shown; and thus put could lead to nothing—and thus put could lead to nothing—a crushing defeat, which it got.

Not only were nearly all the speeches (for and against) of poor calibre, but Lord Strabolgi, who nominally spoke "for" the motion, did more harm to his case than all the speakers against the motion put together. To tell the Conference that the Labour Party was dying on its feet in the constituencies was simply untrue and silly, and to say the cause was the Electoral Truce just added to his folly. Moreover, it was a denial of the stout heart and tremendous recovery and work of L.L.P.s everywhere. Most Local Parties would sooner have the Truce, plus the Truth, than to be argued for in this manner.

The majority of Local Parties we believe voted for the motion. And, naturally, for they feel the pinch and our sympathies are with them. So indeed were the Executive's; but the sympathy only was expressed, not the votes. The Local Parties must wait for another day. And we venture to say that the three years rule applied next year to this matter, would lead to some sort of rumpus.

We will make our own attitude in this matter clear. The "L.O." has never committed itself to an out and out renunciation of the Truce in the manner of the resolution. That won't work.

The "L.O." has indeed supported the Truce all along for the simple reason that no satisfactory method of taking an election existed—that is, until the Committee on Electoral Reform issued its Report.

Latterly, we have pointed out that the situation is changing; has indeed changed. We have pointed out that now a huge section of the House of Commons has never faced the electors. We have shown that the trivial challenges of the earlier years of the Truce are no longer the rule; that today by-elections *are* fought, and formidably; that candidates come along and steal our thunder, and our votes, and even our seats; that Parties are perplexed thereby, embarrassed and discouraged; we have pleaded that something must be done, should be done, and ought to be done. But we have asked neither for a bald denunciation nor for mere sympathy.

The ill choice that Local Parties had or have is to some extent of their own making. It is no part of our functions to frame a resolution for Conference or even to suggest a course.

Yet to make ourselves clearer let us resort to our original argument. If the holding of elections was unjustifiable because they were impossible, (or that real tests of the electorate were impossible because of out-of-date registers), then that truth is even greater today than before.

A preliminary to any general election and similarly to any by-elections, ought to be, the enactment of emergency procedure. That alone can make by-elections a proper test of public feeling or make them desirable in any way.

Because of this the mere denunciation of the Truce seems to us valueless. We simply become free to partake in elections, as meaningless undemocratic and false guides to public opinion as those that have been taking place.

Let us further make clear our belief that "National Unity" could in no wise be jeopardised by by-elections under an emergency procedure. The point is debatable we know, but we feel that an election without national leaders or speakers might indeed be a refreshing experience for all concerned, and result quite satisfactorily for the country.

Presumably President Roosevelt contemplates his election next year: and British Dominions have none of the

fears that encompass our British leaders, and we think such fears are groundless.

To sum up, let us then pray for the good health and continued life of our legislators during the coming year. We want no crop of by-elections. Though we should remember that even the Tories may tire of a position which hits them as it hits us.

We might remember, too, that the real remedy for the sometimes humiliating positions that present circumstances create does not lie in a Conference cancellation of the agreement, but in legislation. And will the Minister, now no longer a representative of the Local Parties on the N.E.C., have as quick an ear to Local Labour Party's repercussion as of yore? We hope so, for that way lies the first move to be made; and this for other Parties as well as ours, who may shortly desire their freedom—and in such small measure to which such freedom would serve Democracy it would be no danger at all to the Cabinet, or the conclaves of the great.

LOOKING AHEAD

The "turn of the year" will shortly be here. Secretaries are now looking ahead to their autumn and winter propaganda.

Now is the time when speakers should be booked ahead. There are still two months for outdoor propaganda. September commences the season for indoor meetings.

The shortage of halls predicates that they should be booked up well in advance, preferably for use at regular intervals, weekly, monthly or bi-monthly as the resources of the Party indicate.

Spasmodic propaganda has not half the effectiveness of regular and dated events which people remember, and attend regularly as a consequence.

We refer elsewhere to film propaganda. It would be an unwise Party which omitted altogether this important aid. We feel quite sure that a winter season beginning with a film show would give surprises as to effectiveness and profit.

There is yet time in the towns where general holidays are in full swing to make special provision for a series of well-conducted outdoor meetings. There are other towns where

annual fairs take place, and on these occasions the Labour Party should be showing. In some places stalls are possible, and in most places outdoor meetings are possible. These contemporary activities make a great impression on people's minds.

Incidentally we hear this month of a confirmation of the benefits to be obtained by selling tickets for Party functions. Aberystwyth (Secretary, Mr. A. T. Grindley, 8, South Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth) tells us of a meeting they held. The weather was atrocious and kept many away. About 100 actually attended to hear Mr. John Parker, M.P., but the Party had sold 200 tickets in advance (130 at 1/- and 70 at 6d.) and they will make about £3 on the event. This is better than the spectacle of a secretary wringing his hands over a drenching downfall which has given him a poor meeting at high cost, not to mention lessened propaganda. We are prepared to wager that the 100 mentioned would not have attended the above meeting if they had not paid for their tickets.

Just one more detail. Winter work requires flash and torch lights. It often cannot be done without. These are on sale to-day, but the winter will doubtless see a shortage. A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse.

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REPORTS AND BALANCE SHEETS

The annual meeting of the S. Wales Regional Council of Labour was held on 15th May, just three days prior to the tragedy which robbed it of its founder and secretary, George Morris.

The report itself was a monument to the industry and initiative of the Secretary. Far-reaching activities, both industrial and political, were reported on, and it is noteworthy that on the political side there were great efforts to improve both individual membership and general organisation, also the women's organisation. The financial statement showed excellent and increased cash balances.

The first report of the W. Midlands Regional Council of the Labour Party, covering, however, only five months' working, bespeaks much energy and a firmly founded organisation. By March 31 there was an affiliated membership of 150,000. Excellent office accommodation has been taken.

The Northern Regional Council had a full year's working to report to its annual meeting held in April. Affiliations totaled 215,176. The report provides an excellent directory to the Northern Political Labour Movement, and there is added a long speakers' panel. The financial position appears flourishing.

At the annual meeting of the Yorkshire Regional Council it was reported that affiliated membership had increased to 293,000. The report itself was noted in our No. 255 issue.

From the report of the Swansea Labour Association we note that 98 T.U. Branches are affiliated, together with the Co-operative Society, 6 Women's Guilds, 18 Wards, and 12 Women's Sections, representing some 20,000 members. There was an increase in individual membership and a fine increase both in income and balance carried forward.

Liverpool T.C. and L.P. appear to be in a flourishing financial condition. There are no grants from outside sources and affiliations totaled £920, £450 of which was made up of political fees.

We referred last year to East Lewis-ham's efforts to sustain and increase its membership. The report, recently issued, shows 1,361 members on the books after removing all losses from the records. Members paid an average of 3s. 4d. each—a fine record when it is remembered that some members lapse after only a short membership. Members' subscriptions reached £216 last year, an increase of over £20. The collectors are very properly remembered in the report. The accounts are exceptionally well presented and a highly useful year's work is recorded—despite the blitzes!

We have received a number of other local reports. These have all been perused with interest. Although consideration of space prevent further mention here, readers should not assume that lack of mention indicates lack of merit or of interest. There is indeed in every Party's report something to guide us in general conclusions, and we thank our readers again for sending along.

The New Propaganda DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE !

We desire this month to specially draw the attention of our readers to the facilities for autumn and winter propaganda offered to them by the Workers' Film Association, Ltd.

There are far, far too many Parties that are not awake to the new propaganda, who either do not know of their opportunities or are indifferent to them.

This is a real peril to our movement, and in this matter Labour lags far behind its Co-operative ally. It lags, too, still further behind its opponents, who discovered the facts about films, and their powerful propaganda appeal, long ago.

It seems a hard task to awaken Local Labour Parties to the fact that the old style of propaganda, is, if not becoming obsolete, at least as ineffective against up-to-date publicity as trench against tank.

Meetings and leaflets simply won't suffice to-day against film propaganda. The latter draws; the other simply leaves the people cold. The "L.O." did something a few years ago to popularise

the mike. We succeeded. Shall we succeed now in convincing our folk that the film calls; that they haven't even the task of creating or purchasing the weapon? The W.F.A. has already done that and the armoury that lies ready for Labour use is amazing. Indeed, if Labour lags much longer it won't have the chance; for the war lays limitations and the Co-operative Movement has its eyes open: they at any rate are alive to their chances.

Do Labour Parties realise that 550 shows were actually arranged by the W.F.A. last year and that 13,672 reels were distributed throughout the country? That speaks of Co-op. and Trade Union aliveness. How many L.P.s participated?

To-day over 600 films are within the W.F.A.'s command, many, indeed most, being of first-rate interest and propaganda value. An evening's profitable programme can be built up of films running from a few minutes to 40 minutes: and the selection is superb. There are "sound" films on the Social Security of the Beveridge Plan, on Local Government (for instance, "New Town for Old," or "New Moscow—How a Soviet City is Planned"); on Education; Health; Politics; Town Planning and Housing, etc. And the pamphlets and lists concerning these, and the detailed arrangements can be had for the asking from the W.F.A., Ltd., Transport House, S.W.1.

So practicable are the W.F.A. proposals that a go-ahead Party may be quite justified in engaging an ordinary cinema and in expecting to make a reasonable profit out of the attendance drawn from the interest and novelty of the show. Other Parties may use their own halls.

For the sum of £5 10s. a programme of films, a first-rate projector and the expert services of an operator are available, and this in all parts of the country.

For a series of film exhibitions covering a period of six days the inclusive charge is £30—and worth it, even if the whole of the shows were given free. For twelve days the charge is £58.

We should point out that the W.F.A., Ltd., is the Film Department of the W.U.C., the Labour Party, Scottish W.S., Ltd., and the National Association of Co-op. Education Committees, Ltd.

So sponsored and so blessed, Local

Labour Parties ought not to fail in their part, which is to use the new propaganda to the fullest degree possible, and so spread the light and improve their own chances in the most modern and effective way.

We ask our readers to bring this matter before their Parties, secretaries first asking to be supplied with the printed details, so that an immediate decision may be arrived at.

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EPSOM AND EWELL

The success which to-day attends a thorough canvass for membership is borne out by a report from the Epsom and Ewell B.L.P.

Last year the Party decided to take up canvassing in earnest. The Executive members themselves commenced the work in West Ewell Ward and a Sunday morning canvass resulted in 48 new members. An inaugural meeting was called and the Ward set up. This Ward now stands at 229 members, with live officers and committee, interesting meetings, socials and dances, etc.

The torch was carried through the other Wards, the facts being as follow:—

At the outbreak of war the Party had 600 members with four Ward

(Concluded on page 15)

A BAD PARTY RULE

The failure of Mr. Herbert Morrison to obtain election for the treasurership of the Party is bound to bring into prominence the rule under which he was debarred from also being a candidate for the Executive under either of the other sections.

It is far from our object here to put in a special plea and to take sides in the election or to urge "legislation for special cases." The rule cited is, however, one the wisdom of which we have always doubted, and is altogether too sweeping in character.

Prior to 1929 it was a frequent happening that candidates stood both for the Executive and for other positions. Something of an abuse had crept in owing to the too open nature of the competition. Candidates stood for the Executive, and sometimes stood as auditors also, or for the Conference Arrangements Committee. In our opinion, the two latter positions call for special qualifications, and there is no case for saying that the duplication of candidatures afforded the Party an opportunity for utilising the service of its members to the best advantage.

But the case of the treasurership of the Party, or indeed the secretaryship, is an entirely different matter. It seems to us ridiculous that a candidate for either of these positions must relinquish, at his election, all opportunity of serving on the Executive at all by the mere fact of his candidature. Prior to the adoption of the present standing order it was conceivable that a man might be elected as an auditor or to the Conference Arrangements Committee and also to the Executive. In such case there would obviously be a clash of interest and the Executive seat would rightly become vacant. The rule was evolved, we believe, to avoid just such a position, but what clash of interest occurs if a person is elected to the Executive and also as treasurer or secretary? No injury is done to the Party; no second election is absolutely necessary; and indeed there are advantages whether the candidate is elected to one or both offices.

Certainly if a candidate may stand for the E.C. and also for the Secretaryship or Treasurership the Party has the choice of saying for what office the candidate is best fitted. It seems to us that a limited amendment of the rule is desirable to enable delegates to become candidates both for

the Executive and for the special offices mentioned. That the treasurer is also an ordinary E.C. member presents no embarrassment at all, and indeed a curious complication of the present rule has already occurred, for was not Mr. Arthur Henderson elected to the offices both of secretary and of treasurer for several years in succession? This does not fit in with the rule that "no delegate shall be eligible for nomination to more than one position to be filled by election at any Annual Party Conference."

We might add that we were present on the day preceding the Conference at the Annual Conference of another body which does not embody the restriction referred to in its rules. At that gathering there was an instance of a person being nominated both as vice-chairman and auditor. The Conference had the choice as to how it could best utilise the services of this member and in what capacity. Had the Party rule been in operation the Conference could only have accepted the individual's own choice of candidature, and have voted upon the relative fitness of the candidates for that office.

This is precisely what happened in the case of Herbert Morrison. It may happen again in respect of other persons.

Your Scrapbook

There are few of us who sometime or another have not desired to recall either a quotation from some famous author, or an item from some speech or another, of friend or foe, of which we have a fleeting remembrance, but no exact record.

Quotations from famous authors, as some but not all of our readers may be aware, can be traced from a Dictionary of Quotations. Accuracy is ensured thereby. Biblical quotations can, of course, be verified by "Cruden's Concordance": but there is no such reference to the daily items which one notes and makes a mental resolve to remember—unless, of course, one keeps a scrap-book. The keeping of a scrap-book of cuttings was expounded in these columns by no less a person than Philip Snowden. Philip's deadly quotations were always accurate and his scrap-book was often the source of his satire and certainly of his facts.

Every budding speaker, and every full-fledged one too, should keep a scrap-book. The daily papers provide one with an everlasting source of propaganda matter. There are not only the facts which support one's own view but the statements or doings of opponents that ought to be recorded.

The scrap-book need not be some special tome bought for the purpose. It might well be some old and discarded book that has served its purpose, although it had better be of foolscap size. But it is no use merely pasting cuttings in a book and having to search through page after page to find what one wants. Good indexing is the essence of usefulness, and one cutting may sometimes need indexing under two or three heads. A speaker is armed indeed who can thus refer and even produce his authorities.

Each cutting should be labelled as to its source. It is sometimes the case that an item one wishes to preserve is not available for cutting. In such case the item may be copied and indexed in the usual way. Where such copying might involve too much labour it is a good plan to paste in either a brief epitome of what one wishes to record or the title of the subject and reference to the source.

It is somewhat surprising that more people do not go the trouble of keeping a scrap-book of the sort indicated. The daily or weekly labour involved is after all but very slight, but the advantages of correct quotation and accurate reference are tremendous. We would advise those who have never started this business to do so now, and in particular we would advise those concerned in elections to keep records of the speeches and actions of their probable opponents. One may in this way build up an armoury for future use of extraordinary effectiveness when the time comes.

TRUTH IN MINUTES

A correspondent recently confided in us concerning troubles which he got into regarding the contents of Minutes of his meetings, in which, as he stated, he had endeavoured to be fair in reporting the actions and speeches of delegates on contentious matters which had come before his party meetings.

We asked him to send us his Minute Book so that we could offer advice with a full knowledge of what was involved.

From a perusal of the Minutes we came to the conclusion that the Party concerned is suffering from the not uncommon evil of having a section out of step with the majority of the delegates; and this Section appears frequently to raise points on rules and on other contentious matters which lead to acrimonious debates. There is also confusion sometimes as to what actually took place or is accomplished at meetings. We pity the poor Secretary in such circumstances, who, while taking his part in the debates, also essays the task of reporting them, and of giving an account of the doings of his delegates. He attempts a hopeless task.

It strikes us that our friend is not the only one who mistakes the functions of minutes. Minutes of a business meeting are not quite the same thing as reports say of a debating society or an academic organisation which meets merely for discussion. Party meetings are business affairs, and the minutes should be concerned principally with recording accurately the nature of business which comes up and *the decisions thereon*.

Our tip would be to exclude altogether any attempt to report speeches or the point of view expressed by delegates. This can really be done in condensed form fairly for everyone. Reports of speeches should be left out.

Our friend should be careful to take note of each item of business and the decision thereon, and of each motion discussed and what happens to it. Amendments should also be noted and recorded. Where, however, a host of motions and amendments seem to arise on a particular question, and undue contention is connected therewith, it is by no means improper, in minuting, to confine oneself purely to what was decided on the main question. Amendments are sometimes difficult to follow especially when not in writing, and it may be dangerous to attempt to express the mover's sense in the Minutes, when he himself has not expressed his intention or amendment in writing.

The soul of wit is in brevity; and brevity is the soul of minutes.

(Continued from page 2)

M402	SB	Coventry D.L.P.	Ald. G. E. HODGKINSON, 30, Coundon Road, Coventry, Warwicks.
M413	SB	Worcester D.L.P.	Mr. L. H. MANN, 37, Field Road, Worcester.
C421	BD	Bradford East D.L.P.	Mr. E. HAYHURST, 46, Parsonage Road, West Bowling, Bradford, Yorks.
H480	SB	Caernarvon B.L.P.	Mrs. E. M. OXLEY, 1, Imperial Mansions, 22, Vaughan Street, Llandudno, Caerns.
H497	CD	Llandaff and Barry D.L.P.	Mrs. D. M. REES, 341, Barry Road, Barry, Glam.
J518	CD	Kilmarnock L.P. & T.C.	Mr. A. CAMPBELL, 10, Richardland Road, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire.
J546	BD	Partick D.L.P.	Mrs. J. CRAIG, 1786, Great Western Road, Glasgow, W.3.
J549	BD	Shettleston D.L.P.	Mr. G. SHERIDAN, 51, Trainard Avenue, Tolcross, Glasgow, E.2.
J554	CD	Hamilton D.L.P.	Mr. G. RUSSELL, 100, Farm Road, Burnbank, Hamilton, Lanarks.
J557	CD	North Lanark D.L.P.	Mr. J. AITCHISON, 15, Windsor Street, Shotts, Lanarks.
J558	CD	Rutherglen D.L.P.	Mr. T. F. COOK, 25, Dalmarnock Road, Rutherglen, Lanarks.
J567	CD	Southern, Mid. & Peebles D.L.P.	Mr. J. ELLIOT, 62, Dundas Street, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian.
J572	SB	Greenock T.C. & L.P.	Mr. E. STEWART, 8, Chalmers Street, Greenock, Renfrews.
J579	CD	Clackmannan & West Stirlingshire D.L.P.	Mr. M. K. MCGARVIE, 28, Netherton Oval, Lennoxton, Stirlingshire.

SECOND LIST

B24	CD	Stalybridge and Hyde D.L.P.	Mr. E. SHAW, 4, Saxon Avenue, Dukinfield, Cheshire.
F46	BD	Drake D.L.P.	Mr. F. J. CRINICK, 13, Stonehall, Stonehouse, Plymouth, Devon.
F49	CD	Barnstaple D.L.P.	Mr. R. H. BAKER, J.P., Millbrook, Braintree, Devon.
D109	BD	Portsmouth Central D.L.P.	Mrs. E. M. WILD, 42, Birdwood Grove, Fareham, Hants.
G126	CD	Hunts. D.L.P.	Mr. H. F. TURNER, 14, St. John's Road, Old Fletton, Peterborough, Northants.
D134	CD	Canterbury D.L.P.	Mr. F. E. JOHNSON, Auckland, Fordwich Road, Sturry, Canterbury.
D142	CD	Sevenoaks D.L.P.	Mr. G. STING, Laneside, Land Way, Kemsing, Kent.
D143	CD	Tonbridge D.L.P.	Mr. N. L. HARRIS, Chancellor House, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Tel.: Tunbridge Wells 738.
B155	BD	East Toxteth D.L.P.	Mr. H. TRAINER, 30, Jermyn Street, Liverpool, 8.
B159	BD	Fairfield D.L.P.	Mr. J. J. WOODS, 28, Aylesford Road, Liverpool, 13.
B166/175	DB	Manchester B.L.P.	Mr. R. E. THOMAS, Room 104, 3rd Floor, Imperial Buildings, 7, Oxford Road, Manchester, 1.
B179	SB	Rochdale T.C. & L.P.	Coun. J. SHAW, Cloth Hall, College Street, Rochdale, Lancs. Tel.: Rochdale 2511.
E228/31	DB	Camberwell D.L.P.	Ald. A. F. CROSSMAN, 59, Beauval Road, London, S.E.22.
E246	BD	East Islington D.L.P.	Mrs. D. HODGSON, 24, Plimsoll Road, London, N.4.
E249	BD	Islington West D.L.P.	Mr. G. B. NAISH, L.C.C., 318, Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

LE262	SB	St. Marylebone D.L.P.	Coun. Miss M. BARRY, 6d, Oxford and Cambridge Mansions, London, N.W.1.
LM350	BD	Stoke, Fenton & Longton D.L.P.	Coun. PARTON, 37, Harding Street, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent.
LM397	BD	Ladywood D.L.P.	Mr. J. K. MASON, 266, Gillott Road, Birmingham, 16.
LM405	CD	Tamworth D.L.P.	Mr. J. CATTERMOLE, 26, Butler Road, Birmingham, 26.
LC428	BD	Hull East D.L.P.	Coun. J. S. WILSON, 74, Granswick Grove, Hull.
LC434	BD	Leeds South D.L.P.	Ald. G. BRETT, 11, Hemsley Drive, West Park, Leeds, 6.
LC441	BD	Brightside D.L.P.	Mr. J. THORPE, 36, Merlin Way, Sheffield, 5.
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LE490	BD	Rhondda East D.L.P.	Mr. B. EVANS, 173, North Road, Ferndale, Rhondda, Glam.
LE510	BD	Aberdeen North D.L.P.	Mr. S. H. ENGLISH, 149, Hilton Drive, Aberdeen.
LE528	CD	East Fife D.L.P.	Mrs. M. H. LITCHFIELD, 29, South Road, Cupar, Fife.
LE529	CD	West Fife D.L.P.	Mr. W. MILL, 40, Oak Street, Kelty, Fife.
LE537/51	DB	Glasgow B.L.P.	Mr. I. DEAN, 7, Bath Street, Glasgow, C.2. Tel.: Douglas 5264.
LE538	BD	Camlachie D.L.P.	Mr. A. F. STRANG, 63, Meadowpark Street, Glasgow, E.1.
LE540	BD	Glasgow Central D.L.P.	Mr. R. S. SCOTT, 25, Rottenrow, Glasgow, C.4.
LE541	BD	Gorbals D.L.P.	Mr. A. ROSS, 105, Wolseley Street, Glasgow, C.5.
LE560/64	DB	Edinburgh T. & L.C.	Mr. W. P. EARSMAN, J.P., 13, India Buildings, Victoria Street, Edinburgh, 1. Tel.: Edinburgh 20348.
LE562	BD	Edinburgh North D.L.P.	Mr. A. BELL, 3, Buchanan Street, Edinburgh, 4.
DELETIONS:—			
LE5	CD	Abingdon D.L.P.	THE SECRETARY, 27, High Street, Abingdon, Berks.
LEF98	BD	Bristol East D.L.P.	Mrs. H. E. ROGERS, 84, Church Road, Redfield, Bristol, 5. (Party Suspended.)

(Concluded from page 11)

organisations and Epsom "doing its best." Later, due to call-up, evacuation, blitz, etc., the Party were reduced at the end of 1941 to 200 members, with only one Ward functioning. To-day membership stands at 748, and eight Ward organisations are functioning out of a possible ten in the Borough. All five Ewell Wards are functioning and three in Epsom are getting under way. A further summer campaign began in May.

The recorded particulars of any canvass always possess a real interest. This party has recorded certain particulars concerning its canvasses which enable deductions to be drawn showing the degree of success resulting or to be expected in future efforts. The Party says:—

"We have found that it is possible to enrol members on an average of 7 per cent. to the number of calls made. This, of course, varies with the district and to a certain extent with the canvasser, but we have found 7 per cent. to be a very good guide generally.

"It has cost approximately three-quarters of an hour and 6d. per member, and about 95 per cent. paid 1s. 1d. for the quarter. It takes three-quarters of an hour to distribute 100 leaflets and four hours to canvass 100 houses.

"We found the best time was 10 to 12 Sunday morning, each canvasser doing about 50 calls."

We thank our friends for these facts, which should be an encouragement to others. And we congratulate Epsom and Ewell upon its work.

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